

# Comparisons of Job Characteristics

Focus Occupation: **Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)**

Associated Occupation: **Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

## Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 85

Focus Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)  
Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	18.4	10.6	<< Extensive education and/or training may be required
Therapy and Counseling	3.8	15.0	10.8	<< Extensive education and/or training may be required
Education and Training	9.2	14.7	13.0	< Expanded education and/or training may be required
Psychology	6.4	14.6	18.0	>> Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	12.5	9.2	<< Extensive education and/or training may be required
Biology	3.7	8.5	2.4	<< Extensive education and/or training may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 92

Focus Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)  
Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Social Perceptiveness	9.1	11.8	11.1	0 Current skill level may be sufficient
Service Orientation	7.9	10.8	10.2	0 Current skill level may be sufficient
Coordination	9.1	10.2	10.1	0 Current skill level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 94			
Focus Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011) Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)					
Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Speech Recognition	9.9	11.8	10.0	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Static Strength	5.0	8.6	8.2	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Extent Flexibility	4.8	8.5	6.1	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Trunk Strength	5.7	8.3	6.4	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Gross Body Coordination	3.9	6.6	5.7	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Stamina	4.0	6.6	5.5	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Speed of Limb Movement	3.2	5.5	2.5	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common	Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 92
Focus Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011) Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)	
Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity
Administer medications or treatments	46
Assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients	84
Assist patient with dressing, undressing, grooming, or bathing	77
Construct medical supportive devices	87
Instruct patient in use of supportive device	87
Lift or transport ill or injured patients	69
Maintain dental or medical records	64
Motivate patients to practice exercises	89
Observe patient condition	48
Order or purchase supplies, materials, or equipment	35
Plan therapy treatment program	77
Position patient for therapy	70
Prepare patient reports	66
Prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments	70

Record medical history or data	68
Schedule meetings or appointments	68
Set up patient care equipment	75
Take vital signs	56
Use knowledge of medical terminology	40
Use massage therapy procedures	81
Use medical equipment in direct patient care	75
Weigh patients	75
Work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses	62

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus  
Occupation to Associated  
Occupation: 86

**Focus Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)**  
**Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Ambulation and transfer and positioning aids for the physically challenged	27
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Computer game or entertainment software	33
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Data management and query software	1
Finance accounting and enterprise resource planning ERP software	2
Gait training products	43
Heat and cold therapy products	29
Hydrotherapy products	33
Industry specific software	1
Information exchange software	1
Measuring and layout tools	3
Medical exam size measuring devices	24
Medical staff clothing and related articles	17
Neurological exam products	30
Orthopedic softgoods for lower extremity	33
Orthopedic softgoods for upper extremity and torso	35
Patient lifts	35
Patient transport products	18
Rehabilitation exercise devices and equipment	24
Safety apparel	4
Stethoscopes and related products	14
Vascular and compression therapy equipment and supplies	33
Vision protection and accessories	3

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.